



## **CATAWBA COUNTY Planning, Parks & Development**

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### **PUBLIC FORUM SCHEDULED ON LONG RANGE LAND USE PLAN FOR HIGHWAY 16 CORRIDOR**

Catawba County has scheduled a public forum on the draft of a long range plan being developed, to build on existing plans that have been impacted by construction or other projects in and near the Highway 16 South corridor.

A forum on the proposed Highway 16 South Corridor Plan will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at Mt. Anderson Baptist Church, located at 4818 Highway 16 South, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Interested persons are invited to drop in at their convenience during those hours, look at maps and other information on the proposed plans, speak with County Planning staff, and give their input on the draft plan.

The plan should not be confused with ongoing projects to widen Highway 16, which are under the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Department of Transportation and North Carolina Board of Transportation. A public forum on that widening was held in Newton on June 6.

"The Highway 16 South Corridor Plan builds on existing plans created for that area," said Jacky Eubanks, Catawba County Planning Director. "These include the Sherrills Ford Small Area Plan (2003) and Balls Creek Small Area Plan (2003). The draft plan focuses on principles and goals of the existing plans while considering past and present developments and future needs pertaining to economic development, land use, transportation, public services and community facilities, and natural and cultural resources."

The Highway 16 South Corridor Plan will be developed for an area extending from just north of Little Mountain and Anderson Mountain south to the Catawba-Lincoln County line, and from Anderson Mountain Road and Lebanon Road to approximately one-half mile east of the existing Highway 16. The Plan is available for review on-line at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/planning/>.

"The proposed plan includes principles and goals from those existing plans, as well as new goals and Plan Action Strategies listing action steps, associated agencies, timeframes, and priorities for accomplishing the goals," Eubanks added. "Examples of Plan Action Strategies include working with developers to include mixed-use development, amend the Official Zoning Overlay Map to relocate the Rural Preservation-Overlay district along the new NC 16 Bypass, and work with developers to extend water and sewer lines to future mixed-use high density development."

The Highway 16 South Corridor Plan will also take into account the final phase of widening of Highway 16 from Charlotte to just southeast of Newton and approval for the planned Bridgewater development and Lowe's Home Improvement.

The July 12 public forum will be followed by presentations to the Catawba County Planning Board on July 25 and the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on August 15. Both boards will hold public hearings and will be asked to approve the plan.

For more information on the proposed Highway 16 South Corridor Plan or the public forum scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2011, at Mt. Anderson Baptist Church, 4818 Highway 16 South, visit <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/planning/> or you may also contact the Catawba County Department of Planning, Parks and Development at 828-465-8380.

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